

**RI Alzheimer's State Plan Commission  
Caregiver Task Force  
Thursday, November 13  
2:00-3:00pm  
Elmhurst Extended Care  
50 Maude Street, Providence**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Kathy McKeon Jennifer Reid Doreen Putnam Linnea Tuttle	Tina Pearl Cristina Amedeo Marea Tumber
---	---

**1. Welcome**

**2. Report on event for Family Caregiver Recognition Month, Nov. 2014**

Kathy gave a report on the kickoff event for Family Caregiver Recognition Month on November 3. There were awards for a caregiver agency, an individual caregiver and family caregiver awards. The Langevin award went to Lt. Governor Roberts for her leadership and involvement with the Alzheimer's State Plan. Marie Carpenter, who chairs the Caregivers Alliance, presented the awards.

**3. Cristina Amedeo from The POINT/211**

Cristina Amedeo and Tina Pearl from United Way came to the meeting to discuss how The POINT/211 is structured, and what types of calls that they receive. The POINT was established under a federal Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) grant. RI is one of 12 states that received this grant. The POINT serves as an entry POINT for elders or adults with disabilities. The POINT/211 has 226 partners in the U.S. All the New England states follow the same guidelines and standards.

The number "211" is essentially the 911 for social services. The emergency line for social services started in 1998 helping people who were looking for housing and food, and in 2007, they started broader programming. The call center has a database to help the homeless find beds in shelters. They have a mobile 211 now because Blue Cross Blue Shield donated a RV. The mobile helps them reach homeless who live in areas other than Providence. The POINT is funded through a 2010 grant from RI ADRC. The POINT has it's own phone number (462-4444), although many of their calls come through 211. They have 4 full-time and 1 part-time staff people. After hours, the calls go through 211. Between the hours of 12:00-6:00am, the calls go to a call center in Maine, but this is invisible to the caller. The calls at this time of night are usually to find shelter beds for the homeless. The POINT just received an after hours elders line grant, and they will build on their existing infrastructure to field these calls.

The POINT is a general resource for elders and caregivers, and offers No Wrong Door, wrap-around service. For example, if someone calls with a medication issue, the staff will ask about income to see if the caller is eligible for SNAP benefits, or the DEA Community Care/Co-pay program. Their office is very active during open enrollment.

There are six regional POINTs that are available for in-person services. RI does not have emergency housing, just shelters, so The POINT produces a daily affordable apartment list. Sometimes landlords are willing to do short-term housing when they have a tenant vacancy. The POINT has a Navigator grant for Health Source RI. Many people are in the 2-year waiting period for SSI. They also help with RiteCare recertifications, and help the unemployed get health insurance. Cristina will try to find out how many calls involve services for people with Alzheimer's and related cognitive impairments.

#### **4. Update on Rep. Langevin's Federal Caregiver Legislation**

Rep. Langevin helped develop and supported the Lifespan Respite legislation that passed and is now funded for annual competitive grants to states. On the Federal level, if a demonstration program is successful, then it will often become a formula grant program. The Congressman is also a supporter of new Federal legislation for Veteran housing and caregiver support for veteran families. These new pieces of legislation would also simplify the application process for assistance for caregivers of disabled veterans.

#### **5. Alzconnect.org data update**

Alzconnect.org is an active resource for caregivers. It is staffed 24/7 by volunteers. People seem willing to reveal more on "chat" than they do over the phone; probably because it is anonymous.

#### **6. "Know the 10 Signs" document**

The link to the "Know the 10 Signs" document is available on the Alzheimer's Association website, and people can freely share that link on their own websites.

#### **7. RWU Law School project**

The Safe Driving brochure was a recommendation in the Alzheimer's State Plan. A RWU law student worked on the content. Marea Tumber showed the final Safe Driving Brochure to the group. The brochure was available at the Commission for the Care and Safety of the Elderly Resource Conference for Police and Fire Senior Advocates on October 29. There is a link to the brochure on the Lt. Governor's website. The Lt. Governor and Marea met with Mike Lewis at DOT about partnering to distribute the pamphlet.

1. Next meeting date: TBD